

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 180099

61

ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 PRS-01 /059 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/DSAA:COL.RMILBURN:RG

APPROVED BY PM/SAS:SWINSHIP

NEA/ARP - MR. COUNTRYMAN

ACDA/IR/AT - LTC. FLUHR (INFO)

PM/SAS - MR. KEENE

----- 089174

R 211338Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

CINCEUR

CSA

SECDEF

S E C R E T STATE 180099

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE

SUBJECT: 105MM HOWITZERS FOR YEMEN

REF: JIDDA 3489

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE REQUEST FORWARDED BY
REF TEL BUT REGRETFULLY ARE UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE
PRINCE SULTAN'S DESIRE FOR EXPEDITED SHIPMENT OF NEW 105MM
HOWITZERS. FYI. DA CURRENTLY IS SHORT 280 HOWITZERS FROM
ITS TOTAL REQUIREMENT FOR 1,749. NO NEW PRODUCTION IS
PLANNED FOR THE US ARMY UNTIL 1979. END FYI. ALTHOUGH
THERE ARE NO HOWITZERS BEING PRODUCED FOR GRANT AID OR FMS
SALES AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE EXISTS THE POSSIBILITY
THAT A REBUILD PROGRAM USING REPAIRABLE HOWITZERS MAY OFFER

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PAGE 02 STATE 180099

AN ALTERNATIVE TO WAITING FOR NEW PRODUCTION. WE HAVE

ASKED DA TO LOOK INTO THIS POSSIBILITY AND INFORM US
OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR INVESTIGATION BY AUGUST 15, 76.
OTHERWISE THE SAUDI FINANCED PURCHASE FOR YEMEN WILL COME
FROM A NEW PRODUCTION LINE THAT IS TO BE OPENED FOR
FMS AND DELIVERY WOULD BEGIN IN 38 MONTHS.

2. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE ABOVE IN RESPONDING TO SULTAN'S

LETTER (EXCEPT FOR THE FIGURES OF US ARMY INVENTORIES IN
THE FYI). AS AN ALTERNATIVE, SUGGEST YOU ENCOURAGE SULTAN
TO RECONSIDER LOAN OF SAUDI ARMY HOWITZERS FOR TRAINING
UNTIL THE NEW PRODUCTION IS AVAILABLE. IF SULTAN DOES
NOT WISH TO LOAN HIS NEW M102 HOWITZERS, HE MAY CONSIDER
USING SOME OLD M101 HOWITZERS FOR TRAINING. KISSINGER

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